DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 149 503 EC 103 575

TITLE	Learning Aids for the Visually Impaired Child.
INSTITUTION	National Learning Resource Center of Pennsylvania, King of Prussia.
SPONS AGENCY	Bureau of Education for the Handicapped (DHEW/OE), Washington, D.C.; Pennsylvania State Dept. of Education, Harrisburg. Bureau of Special and Compensatory Education.
PUB DATE	77
CONTRACT	OEC-0-74-7892
NOTE	20p.; For related information, see EC 103 572 - EC 103 578
EDRS PRICE	MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Educational Resources; Electromechanical Aids; Elementary Secondary Education; *Instructional Aids; *Instructional Materials; Post Secondary Education; Preschool Education; Resource Guides; *Sensory Aids; *Visually Handicapped
IDENTIFIERS	*Parent Resources

ABSTRACT

Intended for parents, the booklet provides a practical guide to the types of learning aids that are helpful to the visually impaired child from preschool to post-school age. Aids for the preschool age are broken down into the following areas: materials for touching, materials for listening, materials for developing language, materials for developing body image, materials for learning to control movement, materials for self help, and materials to make at home. Sources for talking book materials appropriate for the school age child are given, and descriptions of materials for leisure time and daily living are offered. A source of information about special electronic devices for the post-school age child is cited. Cost information is provided for most of the materials mentioned. Appended are the addresses and telephone numbers for Optacon training programs and financial aid, a directory of Pennsylvania radio services for the visually impaired, and a directory of producers and distributors of materials. (SBH)

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Learning Aids for the Visually Impaired Child

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The National Learning Resource Center of Pennsylvania is a federally funded contract between the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped, Washington, D.C., Contract #OEC-0-74-7892, and the Bureau of Special and Compensatory Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education. The contract is administered by Montgomery County Intermediate Unit #23. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Pennsylvania Department of Education or the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped.

NLRC/P gratefully acknowledges the support and contributions of the following persons and institutions under whose auspices this document was developed.

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1

Introduction

Your child has a visual impairment. He may be partially sighted, or he may be blind. In either case, he cannot depend upon his eyes to learn about the world to the extent that normally sighted children do. You, his parents, want to help him learn through his other senses. This booklet is a practical guide to the types of learning aids that are helpful to the visually impaired child. It tells you the things your child can learn through his other senses and suggests certain materials and equipment that have been specially designed to meet his individual learning needs.

Of course, no matter what kinds of special aids you provide for your visually impaired child, you cannot ignore the need for professional attention to his impairment. This means his vision must be regularly checked by qualified specialists. These specialists will be able to determine exactly how much "residual vision" your child has, that is, the amount of useful vision remaining to your partially sighted child.

Your child must be encouraged to use whatever vision he has. Usually, glasses or magnifying lenses are recommended by eye specialists to supplement limited vision. If such aids are prescribed for your child, be sure to fill the prescription. Check that the prescribed glasses fit comfortably, and urge your child to wear them at all times - even though he may not always want to. The use of properly prescribed and fitted glasses is the single most important aid to his learning.

What other kinds of aids can you buy for your child, and where can you buy them? What can you make, out of common household items, that might be helpful to your child? This booklet will answer these questions and talk about the special needs of visually impaired children in three age groups: the preschool age child, the school age child, and the post-school age child.

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Aids for the Preschool Age Visually Impaired Child

Your preschooler is just beginning to learn about his world, and every day he learns new and interesting things. Since he cannot learn everything he needs to know through his eyes, he will learn through touching and listening. He must learn to talk, just like any other young child, but he must rely on his ability to listen to sounds to a greater degree than normally-sighted children. He needs to learn about his own body - how it works, how all the parts move - so that he can control his movements. This will help him learn to walk and travel around in his environment by himself. Finally, he needs to learn to do everyday tasks, like eating and dressing, that come more easily to a child with normal vision.

While your child is of preschool age, be sure to contact your local school district. They will need up-to-date information about his visual impairment so they can plan for him when he is ready to start school. Also, there may be special preschool programs in your school district in which you would like to enroll your child.

At home, you can help your preschooler learn about his world by being aware of the special difficulties he will encounter, and by providing him with objects and experiences to help him learn despite his handicap.

Materials for Touching

Your visually impaired child should use his residual vision to learn about the world. What he cannot see, he will need to touch, so that he can understand how objects are alike or different in size, shape, texture, and temperature. There are many specially designed materials to help you child learn these things by touching. In the examples that follow, please note that the costs of these materials are approximate and that the full address for each distributor can be found in Appendix C: "Directory of Producers and Distributors of Materials."

Sizes Your child should understand that objects can be big or little, long or short. Knowing this, your child will be able to compare, recognize, and choose the objects he uses every day by their size.

One material that helps teach this skill is:

Size Form Frames
Objects of graduated sizes which fit into a rubber panel.
Available from: Ideal School Supply Co. Cost: under $10.00

Shapes Your child should learn to recognize things by their shapes. He will start by learning simple shapes, like circles, triangles, and squares. Later, he will learn to recognize more difficult shapes, and this will help him select the objects he uses for a variety of everyday tasks.

One material that helps teach this skill is:

Shape Sorting Box
Five differently-shaped objects which fit through matching holes in the hinged lid of a box.
Available from: Creative Playthings Cost: under $10.00

Sizes and Shapes Your child will eventually combine his understanding of how things differ in both size and shape. For example, he will come to realize that a large ball and a small cube are different from each other in two important ways. Knowing this, your child will be able to recognize and choose many different common objects.

One material that helps teach this skill is:

Learning Tower
Plastic cups which stack or nest according to shape and size.
Available from: Childcraft Cost: under $5.00

Textures Your child needs to understand differences in the way things feel. Some objects are hard, others are soft, rough, or smooth. There is a wide range of textures for your child to recognize and explore. Understanding textures will help him to use things that are safe and comfortable.

One material that helps teach this skill is:

Feel and Match
Rubber discs which differ in texture and thickness.
Available from: A. Daigger and Company Cost: Under $10.00

Temperatures It is important for your child to know what it means when something is hot or cold. He will learn that objects of different temperatures feel different when he touches them, and that he needs to wear different clothing on hot and cold days. It is especially important for him to understand that very hot or very cold objects can cause him pain if he is not careful.

One material that helps teach this skill is:

Thermal Cylinders
Six stainless steel cylinders with stoppers which are filled with hot, warm, and cold water for matching activities.
Available from: Educational Teaching Aids Cost: under $20.00

Materials for Listening

Your visually impaired child learns a great deal about his world by listening carefully to sounds, and using what he hears. He needs to understand where sounds are coming from, how sounds are different, and what different sounds mean. There are many special materials to help your child learn about the sounds he hears.

Location of Sounds Your child needs to learn where different sounds are coming from in his environment. He will learn where people and things are located by listening to the noises they make, so he can move toward or away from them.

One material that helps teach this skill is:

Voit Audi Ball
8" ball containing a large bell with a loud, clear ring which the child can roll or throw in any direction and locate by the sound of the bell.
Available from: Constructive Playthings Cost: under $20.00

Differences Between Sounds By learning that different things make different sounds, your child will be able to recognize objects in his environment by listening to them.

One material that helps teach this skill is:

Rhythm Band Instruments
A variety of child-sized musical instruments.
Available from: Developmental Learning Materials Cost: from $1.00 to $20.00 (complete set)

Meaning of Sounds Your child needs to learn that different sounds have different meanings. Differences in the tone of voice you use when you speak to him can mean you are happy or angry. Barking sounds mean a dog is nearby; traffic sounds mean your child should be careful because cars and trucks are passing by. Knowing what different sounds mean will help your child understand his world.

One material that helps teach this skill is:

See 'N Say Toys
A variety of different toys which produce sounds to match pictures of animals, people, etc.
Available from: Mattel, Inc. (in most toy stores) Cost: under $10.00

Materials for Developing Language

The visually impaired child develops his ability to speak primarily by listening to sounds and words, and then imitating what he hears. It is important to help your child develop his listening skills so that he can express his thoughts and feelings and make appropriate responses when people talk to him. There are materials to help your child learn to communicate through speech.

Listening To and Understanding Words Your child must listen carefully when you speak so that he will learn what different words mean. You can help your child learn about words by talking to him as much as possible, and by reading aloud to him.

One material that helps teach this skill is:

Touch and Tell
Set of three beginning level story books for blind children.
Available from: American Printing House for the Blind Cost: under $10.00 (Set of 3)

Making Directed Responses Your child needs to understand how to answer you when you speak to him. This is the beginning of conversation for your child, and you can encourage him by playing word games, asking him questions, and teaching him to repeat rhymes and simple songs.

One material that helps teach this skill is:

The Big Line
Telephone system which transmits voices over a 20-foot distance to stimulate child to respond to conversation.
Available from: Childcraft Cost: under $10.00

Spontaneous Expression Your child needs to learn to extend his simple responses, so that he will be able to speak spontaneously and express his thoughts and feelings.

One material that helps teach this skill is:

Telephone Toy
Realistic plastic telephone with bell that rings as number is dialed to encourage child to express himself freely in make-believe conversations.
Available from: Childcraft Cost: under $5.00

Materials for Developing Body Image

The visually impaired child can learn about his own body, and how it moves around in space, with special help from you. He needs to learn right from left, and he needs to be able to identify all the parts of his body. There are materials and games you can use to help your child develop an image of his own body.

Laterality (Right and Left) Your child needs to understand right from left so that he can move in different directions when he is ready to travel around on his own.

One material that helps teach this skill is:

Hand Puzzle/Foot Puzzle
Right and left hands and feet which child identifies by shape and fits into puzzle board.
Available from: Lyndoncraft Cost: under $5.00 (each)

Identifying Body Parts Your child needs to be able to identify all the parts of his body and understand how they move and how they fit together. This will help him control his movements and encourage him to explore his world.

One material that helps teach this skill is:

Cuddly Kitten
Furry toy kitten with snap-on legs, button-on arms, and hook-on head which child can take apart and put back together.
Available from: Developmental Learning Materials Cost: under $10.00

Understanding Body Position in Space Your child must learn how his body moves in space – how his head turns, where his arms will reach, how far he can run, how he can move forward and backward or up and down. The best way to help your child understand the positions he can take in the space around him is to do exercises and to play movement games with him, like "Follow-the-Leader" or "Simon Says." As your child learns to control his movements in space, he will gain the confidence he needs to move about.

Materials for Learning to Control Movement

The ability to move around easily is as important to your child as it is to any youngster. He will start by crawling as an infant, then he will stand, and finally walk. While he is learning to move with greater freedom, he will also be developing skill with his hands and fingers. Fine motor coordination is an important part of your child's learning. It will help him perform the many day-to-day tasks he faces as he grows older. There are materials you can provide to help your child develop and control both his freedom of movement in space as well as his fine hand movements.

Gross Motor Aids Your child needs to learn to move freely and with confidence so that later he can travel on his own. As he learns to control his motor activities, and to respond to cues from the environment, he will gain the ease of movement that is so important.

Materials that help teach this skill are:

Dyna-Balance Rocking Platform
Wooden platform rocker for sitting, kneeling, and standing balance exercises.
Available from: Developmental Learning Materials — Cost: under $35.00

Four-Wheel Riding Seat
Square wooden riding vehicle on coasters on which he can move around in large areas.
Available from: Playskool/ Milton Bradely — Cost: under $10.00

Fine Motor Aids Your child must learn to coordinate his hands and his fingers so that he can adjust his fine movements to the many different objects he must handle in order to successfully do many everyday tasks.

Materials that help teach this skill are:

Threading Block
Large wooden spool and needle attached by cord which threads in and out and around spool to make loops, knots, and designs.
Available from: Creative Playthings — Cost: under $10.00

Jumbo Peg Board with Easy-Grip Pegs
Rubber-like pegboard with 100 holes into which child can fit pegs which are contoured to fit his small hands.
Available from: Ideal School Supply Company — Cost: under $20.00 (set)

Materials for Self-Help

Your child, despite his visual impairment, wants to feel that he can take care of himself and will get as much satisfaction as any other child from saying: "I can do it all by myself!" It will take time and patience to help your child learn to feed and dress himself, and you may want to use special materials as you teach your visually impaired child to do these things all by himself.

Eating Your child needs to learn to feed himself, first using his hands and fingers, then using utensils. You can help him by describing what he is eating and placing his plate and utensils in the same place each time he eats.

One material that helps teach this skill is:

Special-Handled Flatware
Spoons in infant, junior, and adult sizes with built-up handles which swivel to keep food level.
Available from: J. A. Preston — Cost: under $5.00

Dressing Your child has to learn to dress and undress himself. It will not be easy at first for him to learn to put the right articles of clothing on each part of his body, and work with fasteners that are small and difficult to manipulate.

One material that helps teach this skill is:

Dressy Bessy/Dapper Dan
20" high dolls with sewn-on clothes which give child practice in lacing, buckling, tying, buttoning, zipping, and snapping.
Available from: Playskool/ Milton Bradley — Cost: under $15.00 (each)

Materials for You to Make at Home

As you can see, there are several areas of learning in which your visually impaired child needs special help, and there is a wide range of commercially available materials to provide your child with some of the extra help he needs. Of course, you should not feel limited to those products mentioned in this booklet, because there are many other materials available. Also, there are many things you can make at home to teach your child necessary skills. Use your imagination freely, and you will probably think of a variety of ways to adapt household items to the special needs of your child. The following suggestions will help you to think about - and make - some interesting things for your visually impaired child to explore and use.

Suggestion 1:

Clay (Reusable)

Using clay to mold things can help your child to learn about sizes, shapes, and textures, and to develop fine hand and finger coordination.

1 cup water
2 tablespoons salad oil
food coloring to desired shade
4 cups flour
1½ cups salt

How to make: Combine oil, water and food coloring in covered jar. Shake to mix thoroughly. Mix salt and flour together. Add water mixture slowly, working with hands. Mixture should be the consistency of firm bread dough. Store in tightly sealed jar or plastic bag. Make 1 balls, each about the size of a large grapefruit.

Suggestion 2:

Sorting Box

You can build a sorting box out of ordinary household items which your child can use to collect different objects. This can help him learn to recognize differences in the shapes, sizes, and textures of materials.

plastic soft margarine containers
brass paper fasteners

How to make: Connect rows of clean plastic containers with paper fasteners to form compartments. Child can then sort small items (paper clips, bobby pins, buttons, etc.) by putting each type in a separate container.

Suggestion 3:

Work Tray

You can build a work tray to give your child a special area of his own for working with small objects.

How to make: A tray with built-up sides can be constructed of simple materials, such as wood or metal, to provide an area for your child to work with small toys, blocks, puzzles, etc. The build-up sides insure that small pieces will remain within the child's easy reach and will not slip off tabletops.

Suggestion 4:

Puppets

Puppets are marvelous toys for helping your child develop language skills.

How to make: Puppets can be made out of many readily available materials. Try finger puppets made from strips of paper rolled around your finger or attached to a straw. Paper bags (lunch box size) have a ready-made "mouth" (flap) and are easy to decorate with crayons, paint, scraps of paper, or cloth. Paper cups with faces drawn on them or decorated paper plates which you fold in half can become instant "friends". And, of course, old socks and kitchen utensils (spatulas, ladles, wooden spoons) can be decorated with fabric or colored tape to make unusual puppets.

Aids for the School Age Visually Impaired Child

When your child reaches the age when he begins to go to school, he should be provided with special learning aids to help him in the classroom. Once he is placed in an educational environment designed to meet his individual needs, educational equipment like Talking Books, Braille materials and typewriters, and sophisticated reading machines may be made available to him. Since such aids can be expensive, this school service is an important one to you, as well as to your child.

You may still want to purchase certain educational aids for your school age child so that he can continue learning at home. The best policy to follow in selecting and purchasing any commercial products for home use is to let the equipment your child uses in school serve as a model for what you buy. That is, be consistent with what the school offers your child. In this way, once your child has learned to operate certain types of equipment in school, he will automatically be able to use the equipment you purchase for home use.

One educational service you may want to take advantage of is special Talking Books and Magazines for your child to use at home. The Talking Book is the name for special long-playing phonograph records which are played on Talking Book machines. Postage-free Talking Book machines and reading materials are available on loan, without charge, from the Library of Congress, Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Applications for Talking Book materials of your choice may be obtained from the following sources in Pennsylvania:

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
919 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19107 (215) 925-3213

Bureau of the Visually and Physically Handicapped
P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, Pa. 17105 (717) 787-3624

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
4724 Baum Boulevard
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213 (412) 321-0111

If you wish to avail yourself of the Talking Book services, simply contact the library closest to your home, or get in touch with the county office of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind.

Since many of your school age child's needs for educational aids will be taken care of by his school, you can direct your efforts to obtaining daily living aids. You will want to help your child learn to interact with his world. This includes getting along with other people, managing his daily routines, and finding enjoyable ways to spend his leisure time. There are specially designed materials which are beneficial to your visually impaired child as he learns to live life fully.

Materials for Leisure Time

Your child, just like every child, enjoys playing games and participating in active sports. Not only do such activities help him develop his ability to think logically and to move with confidence and ease, they also help him learn to interact with other children and develop good social skills. Since many games and sports require good vision, it is important to provide your child with special equipment to compensate for his impairment.

Games, Puzzles, Cards. Many standard games have been adapted for the use of the visually impaired, so your child has a choice among such favorites as checkers, Bingo, Parchesi, Scrabble, and others. He may also enjoy playing card games with the help of specially designed card decks. Or, he might like to spend some time by himself, putting together jigsaw puzzles or working crossword puzzles.

Here are some examples of materials that your visually impaired child can use to fill his leisure hours. Most have been adapted to permit visually impaired children to play with other similarly handicapped children, as well as with friends or siblings who have normal vision.

Example:

Deluxe Scrabble Game

Braille indications added to Scrabble alphabet tiles so that game can be played by both blind and sighted children.

Available from: American Foundation for the Blind — Cost: under $10.00

Example:

Checkers

Board has sunken squares and checker men are in two different shapes.

Available from: American Foundation for the Blind — Cost: under $5.00

Example:

Jumbo Cards

Oversized symbols and numbers on large cards, for use by children with impaired vision. Standard deck and pinochle deck.

Available from: American Foundation for the Blind — Cost: under $1.00 (per deck)

Example:

Brailled Bicycle Cards

Cards with Braille dots; standard deck or pinochle deck.

Available from: American Foundation for the Blind — Cost: under $5.00 (per deck)

Example:

Kwazy Kwilt Puzzle

Thirteen curved puzzle pieces which fit into scalloped opening in 5½ X 9" box.

Available from: American Foundation for the Blind — Cost: under $5.00

Example:

Crossword Puzzle Set

Crossword puzzle board with letter tiles and ten puzzles in Braille and inkprint.

Available from: American Foundation for the Blind — Cost: under $5.00

Sports Equipment Your child can become actively involved in sports with the aid of specially designed equipment which compensates for his vision loss.

Example:

Aud-A-Ball Volleyball/Football/Soccerball

Balls are battery powered and easily located by sound alone.

Available from: Sensory Aids Corporation — Cost: under $50.00 (each)

Materials for Daily Living

Your visually impaired child needs to take care of himself as much as possible. He can learn to manage his own time and keep track of the days. He can also learn to use such common equipment as the telephone without help from others. There is specially designed equipment which allows your child to care for his own needs and to feel independent.

Clocks and Calendars Your child can learn to tell time and decide how to spend his hours. He can also plan his days and weeks by learning to use calendars that he "reads" with his fingers.

Example:

Clockface

Numbers for the hours embossed in both Braille and inkprint to teach child to read time.

Available from: American Printing House for the Blind — Cost: under $5.00

Example:

Braille Watches

Complete line of wristwatches styled with modern dials in both Braille and inkprint.

Available from: American Foundation for the Blind — Cost: from under $15.00

Example:

Pocket Braille Calendars

Plastic calendars with numbers and days indicated in Braille.

Available from: American Foundation for the Blind — Cost: Free (send self-addressed envelope)

Telephone Aids Your visually impaired child can learn to dial the telephone so that he can communicate as easily as any child. You can contact the local business office of the telephone company and ask to speak with the Head of Handicapped Services. He will be glad to tell you about special equipment for the visually impaired.

Example:

Large Print Telephone Dial

Black plastic dial with large white inkprint numerals which fits on standard phones.

Available from: American Foundation for the Blind — Cost: under $1.00

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Aids for the Post-School Age Visually Impaired Child

After your child has completed his education, he will no longer have the access to compensatory educational aids that he enjoyed while he was a student. Therefore, you may want to purchase educational equipment for your child to use at home.

Again, the best policy for selecting commercial products for his use at home is to be aware of the kind of equipment your child used in school. Whatever you buy should be consistent with your child's prior experience, so that he will be able to use it to his greatest advantage.

If you and your child decide to purchase educational equipment which he has not used before, you will need to evaluate the product's overall quality and its ease of operation. You should apply the same standards of comparison shopping that you would use in making any major purchase. The device should be easy to use, with relatively few attachments to distract your child or require his constant manipulation. It is also desirable to buy devices that are self-contained, battery powered, portable, and compact.

Since your child is of post-school age, you've had years of experience in helping him adapt to his world through senses other than his vision. He is now old enough to help you decide what kinds of educational equipment would benefit him most. Your own experience, together with careful consideration of your child's lifestyle, will be the best guide for you as you select compensatory aids. Should you want further advice, your county office of the Pennsylvania Assocation for the Blind can direct you to experienced professionals.

Besides purchasing educational aids, you may want to select special electronic devices to help your child in his daily living. There are many different types of electronic aids including reading machines, orientation and mobility devices, and personal aids which enable your child to cope with the many day-to-day experiences which usually require normal vision. One good source of information about such devices is: **Catalog of Aids and Appliances for Blind and Visually Impaired Persons**, American Foundation for the Blind, 15 West 16th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

As parents of a visually impaired child, you may be interested to know that special radio services are now available throughout the country. Through closed-circuit radio, FM stations broadcast news, shoppers' information, current books, and special information for the visually impaired. Daily newspapers, including editorials and features, are read over the air by staff volunteers. Magazines and books, which are usually available in Braille or on Talking Book records months after publication, can now be heard within days after publication.

These closed-circuit programs can be heard only on special "fix-tuned" receivers, available on loan to those who are unable to read printed material. Listeners are asked to make a nominal tax-deductible contribution toward the operating costs of the service. Further information on obtaining receivers and finding out about local programs is in Appendix B of this booklet.

APPENDIX A

Optacon Training Programs and Financial Aid

Many electronic devices, now being developed and tested for use, will become available in the near future. One relatively new device, called Optacon, allows the blind to "read" any printed material by converting printed words into messages that can be felt. Compact and portable, Optacon allows the user to read newspapers, magazines, books, labels, or any other printed material. While this device can be of great value to the blind, it is quite expensive. In Pennsylvania, there are sources of financial aid to help defray the costs of Optacon.

Intensive training programs in the use of the Optacon are available from the following agencies. Many also offer the machine for purchase at a reduced rate. You should contact the agency nearest your home, or your county office of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, for detailed information.

Allegheny Intermediate Unit Suite 1300 Two Allegheny Center Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15212	(412) 321-5700
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania State Office Building 300 Liberty Avenue Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222	(412) 565-5240
Greater Pittsburgh Guild for the Blind 311 Station Street Bridgeville, Pennsylvania 15017	(412) 221-2200
Pittsburgh Branch Pennsylvania Association for the Blind 308 South Craig Street Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213	(412) 682-5600
Pittsburgh Public Schools 341 South Bellefield Avenue Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213	(412) 682-1700
University of Pittsburgh Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation 160 North Craig Street Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213	(412) 624-4686
Volunteer Services for the Blind 919 Walnut Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107	(215) 627-0600
Vocational Rehabilitation Center of Allegheny County 1323 Forbes Avenue Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219	(412) 471-2600
Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children 201 North Bellefield Avenue Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213	(412) 621-0100

APPENDIX B

Directory of Pennsylvania Radio Services for the Visually Impaired

Erie

Program: Radio Talking Library
Station: WQLN
For more information contact:
The Radio Talking Library
Erie Center for the Blind
2402 Cherry Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16502
(814) 455-0995

Hershey

Program: Reading Aloud/The Radio Reader
Station: WITF-FM
For more information contact:
WITF-FM
P.O. Box Z
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033
(717) 534-3333

Indiana

Program: Conversations Unlimited/News in Depth/Options
Station: WIUP-FM
For more information contact:
Mr. William J. Lesko
WIUP-FM
Davis Hall
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Indiana, Pennsylvania 15701
(412) 357-2490

Lancaster

Program: Radio Talking Library
Station: WLAN
For more information contact:
Mr. Steve D. Sweeney
Lancaster County Association for the Blind
506 W. Walnut Street
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603
(717) 394-7644

Philadelphia

Program: Radio Information for the Blind
Station: WUHY
For more information contact:
Mr. Frank Kastner
Director, Radio Information Center for the Blind
919 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania [illegible]
(215) 922-5450

Pittsburgh

Program: Talking Gazette
Station: WDUQ-FM
For more information contact:
Golden Triangle Radio Information Center
94 North Bryant Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15202
(412) 766-3803

Wilkes Barre

Program: The Radio Home Visitor
Station: WRKC-FM
For more information contact:
Pennsylvania Association for the Blind
Wilkes Barre Branch
40 West Northampton Street
Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania 18702
(717) 823-1161

York

Program: York County Blind Center's Radio Information Service
Station: WGCB
For more information contact:
Mr. George F. Harris
Executive Director, York County Blind Center
800 East King Street
York, Pennsylvania 17403
(717) 848-1690

APPENDIX C

Directory of Producers and Distributors of Materials

This booklet has presented information about the types of compensatory educational aids and aids for daily living which can be of value to your visually impaired child during every stage of his development. The suggestions offered are intended to guide you in your choice of materials for your child. Don't let these suggestions limit you in any way. There is an almost endless list of available products for you to consider and choose from. Keep in mind what it is you are trying to help your child learn, as well as how your child seems to learn best. Select materials, using your imagination and careful judgment. Many useful aids can be borrowed from the Pennsylvania Material Center for the Visually Handicapped, Central Pennsylvania Special Education Regional Resource Center (SERRC), 5601 North Front Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110 (717) 599-5772, so that you and your child can try them out before you decide whether to purchase them.

The following is a directory of producers and distributors of materials which you might find useful. Write to any of these companies for a catalog of its products:

American Foundation for the Blind
15 West 16th Street
New York, New York 10011

American Printing House for the Blind
1839 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky 40206

Apex Specialities Company
119 Douglas Avenue
Providence, Rhode Island 02904

Childcraft Educational Corporation
964 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Constructive Playthings
1040 East 85th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64131

Creative Playthings
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

A. Daigger
Educational Teaching Aids Division
159 West Kinzie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Developmental Learning Materials
3505 N. Ashland Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60657

Ideal School Supply Company
1100 S. Lavergne Avenue
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

Lyndoncraft Educational Equipment
P.O. Box 12
Rosemead, California 91770

Playskool/Milton Bradley
Springfield, Massachusetts 01101

J. A. Preston Corporation
71 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10003

Science for the Blind Products
221 Rock Hill Road
Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania 19004

Sensory Aids Corporation
175 Terminal Drive
Plainview, New York 11803

Tactile Aids for the Blind, Inc.
2625 Forest Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50311